establish a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court building, accommodation for Judges etc. are provided by the State Government to the satisfaction of the High Court. However, no such proposal for setting up a Bench at Vijayawada has been received.

High Court Bench at North Karnataka

1278. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of legal cases belonging to the North Karnataka region are pending with the High Court of Karnataka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a long pending demand for opening a High Court Bench in North Karnataka;

(c) whether any decision in principle has been taken to set up the bench but the location has not been finalized;

(d) whether any definite time frame has been drawn up for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI Hans Raj BHARDWAJ): (a) The Government does not maintain pendency of cases region-wise;

(b) to (e) Since 1981, the Government of Karnataka has been of the view that a Bench of the Karnataka high Court be established at Hubli-Dharwad. However, successive Chief Justices of the High Court have not so far endorsed the proposal. It is the policy of the Government of India that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, for establishing a Bench of the High Court in North Karnataka, it has not been possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.